

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL FLASH

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 091742

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS-1

TAGS: PGOV, KS, US

SUBJECT: EXPLORATION OF FORMULAE FOR CONGRESSIONAL ACCESS
TO KIM DONG-JO

REF: STATE 091079

1. NEW YORK TIMES STORY BY RICHARD HALLORAN SUNDAY APRIL 9
HAS BROUGHT SERIOUS ROKG REACTION AND COME CLOSE TO STALLING
AMB KIM YONG-SHIK'S EFFORTS HERE TO ACCOMMODATE THE ETHICS
COMMITTEES.

2. ACCORDING TO ROK EMBASSY COUNSELOR PARK, MAJOR CONCERN,
INCLUDING REACTION BY BLUE HOUSE, HAS FOCUSSED ON NYT
ALLEGATION THAT IN MEETING WITH SPEAKER O'NEILL BEFORE KIM'S
DEPARTURE FOR SEOUL THE SPEAKER HAD SENT AN "EXTREMELY
TOUGH" MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT PARK, AND THAT KIM IS BEARING A
MESSAGE TO THE SPEAKER FROM PRESIDENT PARK. ARTICLE'S
FURTHER LINKAGE OF ROK ACCOMMODATION WITH QUESTION OF U.S.
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AID WAS ALSO TROUBLESOME.

3. AMBASSADOR KIM YOUNG-SHIK WAS DESCRIBED AS EXCEEDINGLY
TROUBLED BY THIS ARTICLE, AND ALSO BY REPORTS THAT NDP
LEADER YI CH'OL-SUNG WILL ATTACK KIM YONG-SHIK PERSONALLY
FOR KNUCKLING UNDER TO THE UNITED STATES IN PARLIAMENTARY

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SESSION SCHEDULED TO BEGIN
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12. PARK DESCRIBED MESSAGES RECEIVED
FROM SEOUL IN RESPONSE TO HALLORAN ARTICLE AS "FURIOUS."

4. KIM WAS INCLINED TO WITHDRAW FROM THE COMPROMISE
EFFORT ON THE BASIS THAT JAWORSKI WAS UNWILLING TO ENTER-
TAIN WHAT HE HAD TO OFFER, BUT BELIEVE WE HAVE PERSUADED
HIM: A) THAT JAWORSKI HAS NOT CLOSED THE DOOR; AND
B) IT IS MOST IMPORTANT FULLY TO LAY THE ROK PROPOSALS ON
THE TABLE.

5. MEETING WITH SPEAKER O'NEILL TODAY WAS FOR A TIME IN
JEOPARDY, BUT IT DID TAKE PLACE AFTER SOME MASSAGING OF
THE SITUATION AND A CHANGE OF VENUE TO TRY TO ACHIEVE
PRIVACY FROM THE PRESS. WE WILL INFORM YOU JUST AS SOON
AS WE HAVE SOME INFORMATION REGARDING WHAT TRANSPIRED.
AMBASSADOR KIM HAS "CANCELLED" THE MEETING SCHEDULED WITH
JAWORSKI FOR WEDNESDAY A.M. "AT LEAST TO LET SOME TIME
ELAPSE."

6. COMMENT: KIM IS FEELING THE HEAT AND IS ALSO
DEMONSTRABLY DISCOURAGED AT THE TENOR OF PRESS STORIES
HERE AND THE TOUCHY REACTION FROM SEOUL. WE WILL MAKE
EVERY EFFORT TO KEEP THE DIALOGUE ON TRACK HERE, BOTH
THROUGH ENCOURAGEMENT TO KIM AND CONSULTATION WITH PETER
WHITE, WHOM WE HAVE APPRISED FULLY OF CURRENT DIFFICUL-
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TIES. A COMPLICATING FACTOR IS THE ADVICE OF THE ROK
EMBASSY'S COUNSEL, GRIBBEN, WHO WE UNDERSTAND HAS ARGUED
AGAINST AMBASSADOR KIM SEEING JAWORSKI UNLESS ASSURED OF
A POSITIVE OUTCOME. KIM OBVIOUSLY IS CONCERNED ABOUT
APPEARING TO "KNEEL" BEFORE JAWORSKI.

10. AT THIS CRITICAL JUNCTURE, ANYTHING YOU CAN DO TO
EASE THE HEAT IN SEOUL AND GENERATE SOME SUPPORT FOR THE
AMBASSADOR'S HAND HERE WILL BE MOST HELPFUL. YOU SHOULD
STRESS THAT HAVING GONE SO FAR IN MAKING DECISIONS TO
TRY TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM, THERE IS MUCH TO BE GAINED BY
COMPLETING THE EFFORT AND FORMALLY ENGAGING IN DIALOGUE
HERE WITH JAWORSKI.

11. JAWORSKI HAS SUBSEQUENTLY TELEPHONED US TO URGE THAT
WE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO REINSTATE THE WEDNESDAY MEETING
WITH AMBASSADOR KIM. HE HAS ASSURED US THAT NEITHER
HE NOR WHITE HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH NYT STORY. WE HAVE
PROMISED TO DO EVERYTHING WE CAN AND WE INTEND TO TALK
TO KIM HIMSELF TOMORROW IN HOPES THAT OVERNIGHT HE MAY GET
SOME MORE SOOTHING WORD FROM SEOUL. VANCE

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